discontinue which has a great tourist attraction?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) Improvement of tourist facilities is primarily the responsibility of the State Government/UT. However, Central Government provides financial assistance to State Governmentsj'UTs based on spsciHc proposals, their merits, intcr-se priorities and subject to availability of furtus. The fol owing projects have been sanctianed during 1993-94 tor the Union Territory of Andaman and Nicobar islands :—

(I) Tourist Complex at Dighpur : Rs. 26.62 lakhs

(2) Tourist Complex at Rangat : Rs. 26.85 lakh$_s$

(b) Due to Pilot srike effective December 1992, the once weekly Boeing 737 service operating on Calcut«a-Pbitt Blair-Nicobar and return routes was withdrawn.

Improvement of tourist facilities in Goa

385. SHRI VIRENDRA KATARIA: Wiil the Minister of CIVIL AVIATTON Ar-JD TOURISM be pleased ,to state:

(a) what are the details of s'eps taken improve the tourist facilities in Goa:

(b) whether it is a fact [f]hat ship service from Bombay and othtr places to Goa has been stopped for the lasi two years adversely effecting the tourism in Goa: and

(c) if so, the reason therefor as ship service gives a big boost to tourism industry of Goa?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIA TION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) Improvement of tourist facilities is primarily the respon sibility of the State Government. How ever, Central Government provide" financial, assistance to State Govern ments based on specific proposals, theif merits, inter-se priorities and subject to availability of funds. A list of projects sanctioned during 1993-94 i$_s$ given i the enclosed Statement. *Soe* below).

(b) and *(c)* Efforts to start senses through State Governments no; having succeered, sanction has been given t» private operators for introducing passenger service by ship between Bombay and Goa. This will help in boost! ns tourism.

Statement

Projects!Schemes prioritised during 1993-94

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl. No.	Name of the project	Amount sanctioned	Amount released	Status/likely date of comp tetion
1	2	3	4	
	GOA			
	UNDER NORMAL FUNDING			
1	Wayside facilities at Dodamarg-	12.80	6.40	March '95
2	Tourist complex at Kavaem	18.00	9.00	-do-
3	*Public conveniences at Panaji and Calanguto Beaoh	8.78	2.50	Dec. '94

1	2	3	4	5
4	Tented accommodation at NIWS	13.84	7.00	Dec .,'94
5	Purchase of two Hover crafts for Pangi Park Recreation Centre	12.44	6.22	Sept. '94
6	Food & Cultural Festival	3.75	2.00	Completed
7	Goa Carnival	4.25	2.00	-do-
8	Shigmo festival	4.25	2.00	-do-
9	Publicity support	0.71	0.71	-do-
	TOTAL	7.v 82	37.83	

* In lieu of Polem and Manjuishi projects.

Taiuism Co operation with Hussia

386. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION WD TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whelher any tourism Co-c,eiation agreement has receniy been signed with Russia; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) Yes, Sir, An agreement on cooperation in the field of touri-m was signed in Moscow on 30th June, 1994 between the Gov[f]. of India and the Govt, of Russian Federation.

(b) The salient features of the agree-went aS follows -

(i) Bo'h the Parties will strengthen and encourage the development and .tjoperiifion in the field of tourism on the basis of equality and mutual benefit,

(ii) Both the Parties shall strive to simplify immigration, customs and other formalities in order to facilitate tourism exchange

(iii) Both the strive to facilsnte it a nd expedite the issue of visas for up to 3 months to citizens of the other Party.

(iv) Both the Parties shall facilitate the import and export of material arid documents for publicity on tourism (free from customs duties.

(v) Both the Parties shall encourage the exchange of statistics in the field of ourism.

(v\) Both the Parties shall assist each other in training of professional staff in the field of tourism.

(vii) Both the- Parties may open an official tourism representation in the territory of 'he other Party

Withdrawal of Restricted Area Permit From North -Easten

387. SHRI DAVTD LEDGER: Will the Minister of CVTL AVTATTON AND TOIRTSM be plesed to state?

(a) w eltete r Govevmement are wave that the Restricted Area Permit (RAP) is the gre:-.tes impediment to the growth. of the Tourism in the North-Easfetfrt region;

fb) H BO, whether Government would consider its withdrawal; and